

Safety

Pilot Fined for Airspace Incursion. A helicopter pilot who illegally entered controlled airspace, causing disruption to flights at London Heathrow Airport, has been successfully prosecuted by the CAA. The infringement was spotted by air traffic controllers at NATS, Swanwick, who were alerted by radar to the presence of an unexpected aircraft in the zone. As a result, air traffic control was forced to temporarily halt all northbound departures at London Heathrow Airport. The pilot was fined £1,700, ordered to pay costs of £600, a victim surcharge of £120 and a court user charge of £150. CAA prosecutor, Alison Slater, said: "When a pilot infringes controlled airspace the CAA has a number of options it can use including further training; however in the most serious cases we can and do prosecute. Airspace infringements, no matter how short lived, can cause significant disruption and the knock-effects could mean hours of delays to thousands of people."

NOTAM Procedural Changes. A theme that has been constantly raised over recent years from UK airspace users concerns the number of NOTAM in circulation: specifically, that there are too many NOTAM to analyse. To address these issues, UK NOTAM policy has been updated. Full details are in CAA Information Notice 2015/102 at <http://www.caa.co.uk/docs/33/InformationNotice2015102.pdf>

Instructors

EASA Part-FCL FI(S) Refresher Seminars. The BGA now has approval to deliver Part-FCL FI(S) and FE refresher seminars. We are pleased to let you know that the first FI(S) refresher seminar is scheduled for the weekend of 30/31st January at Leicester. This seminar is targeted at FI(S) certificate holders whose certificate is due for revalidation before the end of 2016. Further details and the application form to be submitted at the latest by 20th January are at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/courses-events/courses/>. There is no fee for the seminar. We expect to run a further Part-FCL FI(S) refresher seminar in March. Examiner refresher seminar dates will follow.

BGA

BGA Conference 2016. A reminder that the 2016 BGA Conference, Exhibition, AGM, and Awards Dinner will be held at the Nottingham Belfry on Saturday 27th February. Online bookings for lunch and the awards dinner are now open at <https://legacy.gliding.co.uk/bgashop/applications/conference/conference.php>. If you want a room in the hotel, we advise that you book this as soon as possible with the hotel as these are filling fast. Make sure you don't miss out on one of the (land-based) highlights of the British gliding year.

Comps Committee Changes. Mark Holden has stepped down as Chair of the BGA Competitions Committee on becoming a father. The BGA would like to thank Mark for his hard work and wish him all the best for the new project! Liz Sparrow is now chairing the committee.

Youth in Aviation Parliamentary Reception. Organisations and individuals from across the aviation world came together last month at the Houses of Parliament to highlight to politicians

and industry stakeholders the social, economic and educational benefits of youth access to aviation and the vital connection such activities have with the future prosperity of the British aerospace industry. The event, at which the BGA was well represented, was organised to improve the engagement between the aviation industry and MPs and to highlight the significant benefits that the world of aviation can not only provide for young people, but also to the overall development of the United Kingdom as a whole.

Club Management

Clubhouse Renovation Loans. It has been identified that clubhouse facilities at many gliding clubs are an element that discourages people joining or continuing training. We appreciate fully the challenges clubs have in maintaining fleet and facilities whilst remaining cost-effective for members. To this end the Philip Wills Memorial Fund is offering a limited opportunity in 2016, by way of interest-free loans, to help clubs improve their clubhouse arrangements. More information is at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/?p=24367>

Regulatory

RT Manual. Amendment 6 to Edition 21 of CAP 413 Radiotelephony Manual was published on 6 November 2015, to take effect on 10 December 2015. The updated document is at <http://www.caa.co.uk/application.aspx?catid=33&pagetype=65&appid=11&mode=detail&id=6973>

8.33 kHz Radios - Glider Handheld Approval. As everyone should be aware, to address a shortage of aviation radio frequencies across Europe, 8.33kHz band-spaced radios will be mandated from 1st January 2018. An approval has previously been announced allowing certain VHF handheld radios to be used in Annex II sailplanes. The CAA has now announced that it will extend this approval to EASA sailplanes for flights in UK airspace with the exception of flights conducted in airspace Classes A, B and C. More details are in CAA Information Notice 2015/098, available at <http://www.caa.co.uk/docs/33/InformationNotice2015098.pdf>.

8.33kHz Radios - Other Initiatives. Following dialogue with BGA and others, the CAA has published some information about the steps they are taking, in addition to the exemption described above allowing glider pilots to use certain 8.33kHz handheld receivers, to ease the transition to 8.33kHz radios. These are: a) applying for European Union funding to assist with the cost of radio equipage; b) the retention of a small number of dedicated 25 kHz frequencies for a limited period of time after the conversion deadline of 31 December 2017; and c) remove the need for aircraft owners to pay a regulatory fee to change a panel mounted radio by seeking to have radio manufacturers arrange a minor modification approval. Hopefully these initiatives will bear fruit and we will keep owners updated. The Navboys site at <http://www.navboys.com/products/radios/upgrade-to-8-33-khz/> provides useful technical information for owners about the upcoming 8.33 kHz equipage changes.

New European Safety Reporting Rules. New Europe-wide rules on the reporting of aviation safety incidents and occurrences came into force on 15th November. These update the existing UK Mandatory Occurrence Reporting (MOR) scheme. Guidance from the EC and the European Aviation Safety Agency is currently being developed and will be available in the coming weeks, accompanied by an update to the CAA CAP 382 document on occurrence reporting. Full details will be available on the CAA website at <http://www.caa.co.uk/MOR>. The BGA is aware of these developments and can confirm that no changes to existing procedures for glider pilots are required at present. We will advise if and when any changes become necessary. Meanwhile, the accident reporting requirements published on the BGA website remain correct.

EAS Newsletter. Europe Air Sports has published the latest edition of its newsletter which, as always, provides a comprehensive and interesting summary of the latest developments relating

to the regulation of sporting aviation in Europe. The newsletter is available from the EAS web site at <http://www.europe-air-sports.org/activities/newsletter/> where you can also subscribe to receive your own copy directly.

Competitions and Cross-Country

World Junior Championships. The Junior World Gliding Championships are currently underway at Narrowmine in Australia with the British team putting in some very strong performances in tremendous Australian conditions (over 150kph in the 611km Standard Class race on Sunday!). At the half way stage, Tom Arscott and Sam Roddie are in second and third places and well in contention for Gold in the Club Class while, in the Standard Class, Mike Gatfield and Matt Davis are lying 14th and 15th and still very much in the hunt for a medal position. You can follow the team at <https://www.britishglidingteam.co.uk> and full results are on the championship site at <http://www.jwgc2015.com>

BGA Trophy Nominations. As we approach the year-end close of the BGA Ladder, the BGA Competitions Committee invites pilots who believe they have completed a flight qualifying for a BGA ladder trophy to apply. Some trophies are automatically selected from the BGA Ladder, but there are always some flights that are hidden within larger flights. The committee also seeks nominations for the Phil Lever Trophy (most promising junior pilot) and the John Hands Trophy (awarded for outstanding support for the organising or running of competitions). The complete set of rules can be found at <https://members.gliding.co.uk/library/bga/bga-trophy-rules/> and <http://www.bgaladder.co.uk/Rules.asp>. Please send applications to compscommittee@gliding.co.uk

World Championship Team. Following the recent team vote, teams for the next World Championships have now been selected. The team for Pociunai, Lithuania (August 2016) is: Club Class - Will Ellis, G Dale; Standard Class - Jeremy Hood, Richard Hood; 20m Multi-Seat Class - Steve Jones/Howard Jones. For Benalla, Australia (January 2017), the team will be: 15m Class - Ed Johnston, Derren Francis; 18m Class - Peter Harvey, Steve Jones; Open Class - Andy Davis, Russell Cheetham.

2016 Nationals Entries. Applications are now being accepted for 2016 National Championships in all classes. Pilots can enter online through the BGA website at <https://legacy.gliding.co.uk/bgashop/applications/competitions/step1.php>. FAI licence renewal for 2016 can be done at the same time if required. With places significantly limited in some classes, pilots should ensure that their entry is placed before the deadline of 31st January 2016. Notes about the application process can be downloaded in advance of entry from <https://legacy.gliding.co.uk/bgashop/applications/competitions/notes.htm>

Bicester Grand Prix. Windrushers Gliding Club will host one of nine worldwide qualifying Grand Prix events at Bicester from Saturday 9th to Sunday 17th July 2016. The series culminates in the Sailplane Grand Prix final in South Africa. The Bicester qualifying event takes the form of daily simultaneous start races with 20 participants and is open to UK and foreign pilots in the 18m Class. Preliminary information is on the Sailplane Grand Prix website at <http://www.sgp.aero/> where applications for entry can also be made.

World Air Games. The 2015 World Air Games is currently underway in Dubai until 12th December. The Games is the premier international multi-discipline air sports event featuring some of the world's top air sports athletes and covering 85 competitions spread across 22 disciplines in 8 air sports. This year's games include glider aerobatics and, for the first time, a new form of glider racing. Because conditions in Dubai cannot support cross-country racing, the Games feature parallel glider racing where two identical 18m sailplanes will be towed to a predetermined height where they release and pass through a start gate to begin the race. The

pilots will then have to pass around designated turning points on short parallel tasks in two segregated air spaces located on each side of the runway. The first pilot across the finish line will win the race. The Games web site is at <https://www.wagdubai.ae/index.php> and there is a dedicated gliding sub-site at <http://www.crosscountry.aero/wag> where more information and results can be found.

Juniors

Air League Gliding Scholarships. Applications are now being accepted for 2016 Air League Gliding Scholarships. These are for solo pilots aged 16-25 and are designed to help them to broaden their flying experience through aerobatic, cross-country or SLMG training. Awards are typically around £300 and cover flying fees at any Junior Gliding Centre or at a number of other selected clubs. Full details and an online application, which must be completed by 19th February are at <http://www.airleague.co.uk/scholarships/gliding-scholarships/> (the application process is at <https://airleague.formstack.com/forms/gliding2016>).

Free Places at Northern Regionals. Yorkshire GC is offering three free places for juniors in the Northern Regionals which run from 12th to 18th June 2016. The deal includes free entry and the first 5 aerotows of the competition. To apply, please send your name and contact details to Andy Parish on turntigher@gmail.com with 'Junior Northerns' in the subject line before 25th December. If there are more than three applicants, the lucky pilots will be chosen by ballot and informed by 1st January.

General

RAeC Newsletter. The latest edition of the Royal Aero Club Newsletter can now be downloaded from their web site at <http://royalaeroclub.co.uk/news.php?story=42>.